

## **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action, Claims 1, 9 and 16 are amended and Claims 22-24 are added. Claims 1-24 remain in the Application. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

### **I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner rejects the word “allowing” or “allow” in independent Claims 1, 9 and 16 as unclear. Applicants replace “allow(ing)” with “grant(ing)” to promote clarity. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: September 12, 2007

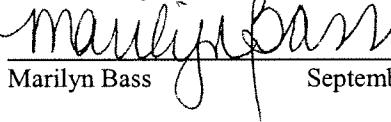
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Marilyn Bass

September 12, 2007